

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 11, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Minchuk was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Hardaway said they received a letter from Luke Oil Company and referred to Mrs. Shine. Mrs. Shine read the letter from Luke Oil Company requesting permission for a temporary sign replacement located at 721 West Lincoln Highway. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Clerk Treasurer Eugene Guernsey gave the Oath and provided the Swearing in of the new Police Officer:

Eran J. Meyer

The Town Council congratulated and welcomed the new Police Officers.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated December 11, 2018. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2018. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk had no report. Mrs. Uzelac said she received several calls regarding leaf pick up and after talking with Mr. Spires it was confirmed leaf pick up will continue. Some Discussion followed.

Mr. Spann thanked Public Works for taking care of a tree that fell over into the street on 65th Place.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca thanked Ms. Olrich and everyone that participated in the Santa Procession last Friday.

Ms. LaMarca enters a motion to appropriate funds to purchase parcels for real estate related to the current Merrillville Community Center Project. Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve the signing of the documents for the purchase of the property for the Rec Center and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Barron had no report and referred to Mr. Lake for a report. Mr. Lake reported that a Drainage Improvement Project was finished located at 6700 of Massachusetts Street. Mr. Lake said that they are 20 percent complete with the Engineering Base Project. Mr. Lake said he has talked with the Lake County Surveyor and they have agreed to start the drainage maintenance for Turkey Creek, the contractors have completed insulation for the infrastructure for the Windy Hill Project.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit said there was a claim authorized earlier today at the Redevelopment Commission meeting for the 101st Bridge Project that Indot will start in the spring to widen the lanes. Mr. Pettit thanked Mr. Spires and Indot for widen the bridge.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway said he is pleased to announce that he will be receiving the tax certificates for the properties located on Broadway. Mr. Hardaway said once they acquire the deeds they will be consolidating the parcels into one and then the property will be put up for sale. Some discussion followed.

Mr. Svetanoff said the tax sale certificates have been acquired and should be receiving orders from the courts to turn those into tax deeds and will be acquiring 6 parcels. Some discussion followed.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 18-31:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 17-32 and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2018. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 18-32:

An Ordinance amending Town Code Section 2-1 entitled, “fees for copying of public records established” and repealing all town code sections and Ordinances, or thereof, in conflict herewith. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 18-33:

An Ordinance vacating a public way in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and all matters related thereto. Mr. Svetanoff made a motion to suspend the rules for the first reading ordinance and enter 18-33 into a second reading.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to suspend the rules for the first reading ordinance and enter 18-33 into a second reading. Mrs. Barron seconded the motion. No discussion followed the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 18-29:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana fixing the parks non-reverting fees for the year 2019. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 18-30:

An Ordinance to establish the wage and salary of the employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana and to amend provisions in the compensation and benefits ordinance. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 18-33:

An Ordinance vacating a public way in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and all matters related thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 18-31:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2018 budget within certain categories. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 18-32:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2018 budget within the general fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 18-33:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2018 budget within the various funds. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Ahmad Musleh
Owner: GSM Group, LLC Owner
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: To allow a used car dealership
Location: 6300 Broadway
Zoning: C-3 Highway Commercial
Case #: Z41E21-1118
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only. Fire Inspector should inspect exhaust system within 60 days of the approval building totally painted, parking lot restriped and lighting for parking lot. Security cameras on site.

Mrs. Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was second by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Rebecca Mendez
Owner: Rebecca Mendez
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: To allow a kennel
Location: 2021 West 73rd Avenue
Zoning: R-2 Residential
Case #: Z42 uV11-1118
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only. No more than 25 dogs erect a fence by May 1, 2019 or as soon as weather permits.

Mrs. Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit read the variance requirements that have to be met in order for a petitioner to be approved this petitioner did not meet those requirements due to zoning and other factors. Mr. Pettit made a motion to deny the petitioner use of variance and made a note that Mr. Minchuk who ward this is in did not approve. Mrs. Uzleac seconds the motion. Some discussion followed. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote with 1 abstain vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services)
December 24th & 25th, 2018 in observance of Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Town Council meeting, Thursday December 27, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Spann.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer